

Please DO NOT approve this measure.

First, near-perfect copies of digital content are already available on CDs and DVDs. Second, anyone with a pirate receiver that ignores the broadcast flag can distribute the program freely: It only takes one person making a file available on the Internet for the file to leak permanently.

Third, depending on how the regulation is written, it could limit the public's ability to use the broadcasts in legitimate, non-infringing ways. Fourth, as computers and TVs continue to converge, this approach will inevitably lead to greater regulations imposed on PC companies and perhaps even operating system makers.

It's true that Hollywood and the TV studios have legitimate concerns about piracy, and widespread copyright infringement via the Internet appears to be growing. But it's hardly clear whether this is the wisest approach. The best approach is to track down offenders of existing laws. No new laws or regulations are necessary!